

GUIDELINES FOR FARMERS MARKETS DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK



Farmers markets play a critical role in providing food access and food security to the community. Additionally, they provide a reliable income source for farmers. During the COVID-19 outbreak, it is essential for markets to take extra precautions to ensure the safety of all parties involved.

FARMERS MARKET EMPLOYEES

1. Farmers, vendors and market staff should wear food grade gloves, with frequent changes as they become soiled or contaminated.
2. Market employees who feel sick or show signs of illness should remain at home.
3. Increase the frequency of hand washing and sanitizing.

FARMERS MARKET OPERATIONS

1. Encourage farmers to bring handwashing supplies and/or hand sanitizers for frequent use within their own booth space.
2. Limit bare hand contact. No handshaking, no hugs. To the extent possible, limit customer handling of food products.
3. Segregate duties behind market tables. Designate one individual to handle money, tokens and coupons, while others handle the products being sold. Again, wearing food grade gloves with frequent changes.

4. Farmers and vendors who are ill, or showing signs of illness, should stay home. Send a replacement to sell if they are not sick. If anyone within the farm business is confirmed infected with COVID-19, notify the manager and remain home.
5. Watch for signs of illness in customers, removing all products they may have touched from their sales tables. Do not remove with bare hands.
6. Suspend cooking demonstrations and sampling.
7. Encourage customers to adhere to 6-foot social distancing by posting prominent signage.
8. Set up booths with additional spacing.
9. Cease all non-essential activities at the market.
10. Share on social media the health and safety precautions you are enforcing.

For more COVID-19 information, visit
agriculture.sc.gov/coronavirus.

